

**Testimony Concerning HB 5844**  
**Barbara Rudnick**  
**Member Ct. Votes for Animals**

I would like to thank the Environmental Committee for the opportunity to express my concerns regarding HB 5844, which prohibits the chaining of a dog outside between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM or during severe weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in East Berlin and have worked with various animal shelters, rescue organizations and animal welfare for approximately 30 years.

I have witnessed numerous dogs over the years chained to dog houses, decks, trees etc. In some cases their protection consisted of nothing more than pieces of plywood. Honestly, I have never seen a shelter that I felt offered the protection necessary for our severe winters here in Connecticut. You can see how much time a dog spends chained simply by looking at the ground around the area. It is worn and has no grass because the frustrated dog paces the same square footage everyday. There is a big difference between dogs that are outside for a half hour of fresh air, as opposed to those that live their sad lives chained 24/7.

We all are aware that studies have shown dogs chained outside everyday that have little interaction with people in many cases are more aggressive. Unfortunately these poor dogs are not valued as a living creature, who experiences pain and hunger, but are simply seen as property. I do not know about the rest of you, but I can honestly say at the end of a bad work day my dogs greeting me at the door with tails wagging, "like I was the most important person in the world", was the high point of my day.

Presently, there are 3 dogs in Southington that are chained to dog houses on the side of a home. I have seen them there on the coldest of days, during sleet and snow. I contacted the ACO the day of our most recent storm. I was concerned that if the predictions were true, what would happen to these poor dogs. The ACO went to the home and called to tell me that in speaking with the owner he did show him the dog houses. He also stated that on severe weather days the dogs are brought into the garage and crated and that there was a heater. Although better than being outside during a major storm it still broke my heart that apparently a crate in the garage was the best they ever saw. I know there are ACO's who would like the opportunity to be able to require owners to bring the dogs inside or provide better accommodations during severe weather conditions and this bill would help them to enforce it.

I strongly urge you to support this bill, which would make such a difference in the lives of so many dogs. Please make Connecticut a state we can all be proud of for caring about our companions.

Thank you,

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